

RENEWAL FUNDING FOR HOMELESS RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, just recently, the President signed into law the Military Construction Appropriations conference report. This bill includes critically needed funding to renew rental housing assistance for very low income disabled, veterans, mentally ill, and other families and individuals at risk of homelessness.

Late last year, some 40 projects nationwide did not receive renewal of expiring grants under either the Shelter Plus Care or SHP Permanent housing programs as part of the McKinney Act homeless program funding awards for fiscal year 1999. As a result, thousands of families—including 180 in Erie County in the area I represent—were at risk of having their entail subsidies expire at some time this year.

In response, in February of this year, I introduced H.R. 3613, legislation to provide emergency one-year funding for these expired and unrenewed projects out of the Section 8 Housing Certificate account. This legislation was later offered as an amendment by the Ranking Member of the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee to the House Supplemental Appropriations bill, and the amendment was adopted.

The good news is that the MilCon conference report provides funding to renew all these projects for one year, as proposed in my legislation. The bad news is that the Senate rejected the House approach of funding renewals from the Section 8 account, instead requiring that funding be taken from the fiscal year 2000 homeless program account.

This means that \$5 million less in critically needed homeless funds will be available later this year under the FY 2000 grant competition.

It also means that at least for now, we continue the year-to-year uncertainty families and grant applicants face with regard to renewals. As a result, we continue a policy that is incomprehensible: Automatically renewing rental assistance subsidies nationwide for all low-income families—with the sole exception being the most vulnerable, poorest families who receive rental assistance under the Shelter Plus Care and SHP Permanent housing homeless programs.

This fall, in the VA-HUD conference report, we will have a chance to get it right—that is, to renew Shelter Plus Care and SHP permanent housing renewals automatically out of the Section 8 account for both fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2001, and to launch us down the path of doing this on a permanent basis in subsequent years.

Through both the supplemental spending bill and the recently passed fiscal year 2001 VA-HUD bill, the House has affirmed its support for renewing these grants through the Section 8 account. I urge the Senate to accede to this very reasonable approach.

In any event, I am pleased that this bill gives-at-risk families assurance of assistance for another year, while we work out this issue.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BIG BAND SOCIETY CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the efforts of the Big Band Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this week.

The names of landmark recording artists such as Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, the Dorsey Brothers and Duke Ellington, may not meet with instant recognition with those Americans who grew up with MTV. But for millions of music lovers, those artists represent the beloved sounds of their generation.

The Big Band Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania is to be commended for keeping this musical tradition alive. One way they do this is by holding their annual gala dance each summer at the Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas, Pennsylvania.

Under the leadership of dedicated people like Pat Perillo, its president, and Charlie Aten, its treasurer, this organization, with its devoted members, has drummed along tirelessly to promote the tunes and the personalities of the Big Band era and to bring that original sound and enduring spirit to younger audiences.

Mr. Speaker, for many Americans, the Big Band sound is much more than a style of music—it is uniquely American and evokes moving memories for a generation filled with patriotism, pride and love of country.

I am pleased to honor the Big Band Society for their part in keeping alive this important tradition of our nation's culture. I send my best wishes to the members of the Society on their 30th anniversary as well as my wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE PUERTO RICAN PARADE AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the activities of the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Organization of Northwest Indiana. On Sunday, July 16, 2000, I had the privilege of attending this year's kickoff of the organization's festivities, at the Puerto Rican Dia Del Camp Kickoff Picnic in East Chicago, Indiana. On Thursday, July 20, 2000, the organization will be hosting its 18th Annual Dignitary Banquet at Hijos de Borinquen in East Chicago, Indiana. The annual celebration for Northwest Indiana's Puerto Rican community will culminate on July 22, 2000, with the traditional festival at East Chicago's Block Stadium, and the community parade on July 23, 2000.

I especially would like to congratulate Ms. Betty Paine, President of the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Organization of Northwest Indiana, as well as all other members for their

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time-honored dedication to the preservation of their Puerto Rican heritage. Joining the celebration at the Dignitary Banquet will be Mayor Luis Oliver, of Lares, Puerto Rico, and Jose Luis Gonzalez, Director of the Tourism Board in Lares.

The history of Puerto Rico is one of great pride and honor. In 1493 Columbus found the island of Borinquen (the Amerindian name for Puerto Rico) to be inhabited by Taino Indians, a subgroup of the Arawak thought to have arrived on the island 1,000 years before from South America. The Taino Indians who greeted Columbus showed him gold nuggets in the river and told him to take all he wanted. The town founded near this river was named Puerto Rico, or "rich port," with the island being named "San Juan Bautista," for St. John the Baptist. It was not until later that the two names were switched.

The rich culture of the people of Puerto Rico evolved progressively over the centuries. Immigrants brought influences from Europe, Africa, Asia, and other Caribbean islands to Puerto Rico, and blended them to create a unique society found nowhere else. Today, more than 2 million Puerto Ricans have migrated to the United States. The values and traditions that were brought with them have strengthened American society, and our country has been enriched with the infusion of Puerto Rican culture, folklore, hospitality, and way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Organization of Northwest Indiana for its commitment to remembering Puerto Rican heritage, as well as its commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. May this year's cultural celebration be a joyous one.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS FOR ITS OUTSTANDING FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Federal Credit Unions for deciding to take a leadership role in helping to raise funds for the National World War II Memorial.

At its annual Defense Credit Union Summit, NAFCU President Fred Becker announced that association members will be encouraged to make a personal donation, or by encouraging their credit union members to support the memorial through a NAFCU/World War II Memorial pledge card. Members will also be able to use the pledge card to submit names for the Registry of Remembrances for the Memorial.

I believe that all veterans and all families of veterans will appreciate this special campaign by the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. I encourage all of our colleagues to read the press release from NAFCU that I am

submitting and to promote the program within their own Congressional Districts for the benefit of all World War II veterans.

NAFCU JOINS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL

HONOLULU, HI.—The National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU) announced today at its annual Defense Credit Union Summit that it will take a leadership role in helping to raise funds for the National World War II Memorial.

NAFCU President Fred Becker made the announcement at a gathering of defense credit union officials, just miles from Pearl Harbor where the war began for America in December 1941. The Defense Summit is a one-day, defense credit union meeting that precedes NAFCU's Annual Conference and Exhibition, held this year at the Hawaii Convention Center, July 19-22.

President Clinton signed legislation authorizing the establishment of a National World War II Memorial in 1993, and a fundraising campaign spearheaded by Senator Bob Dole and FedEx Corporation CEO Fred Smith has now raised more than \$92 million of the estimated \$100 million required to design, construct and maintain a memorial. The NAFCU Board voted last month to lend NAFCU's support to the campaign and to encourage its members to promote the effort as well.

"I think it is appropriate that we announce our participation in the campaign here, in Honolulu, where the battleship Missouri and the Pearl Harbor Memorial serve as solemn reminders of America's involvement in the last world war," Becker said. He noted that 16 million Americans served in uniform during the war, and more than 400,000 died. "World War II was the most significant event in the last century," he said. "Without the sacrifice of that generation, we would not enjoy the freedoms and opportunities we have today."

"The World War II Memorial Campaign sincerely appreciates the efforts of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions and the support of the nation's federal credit unions and their members in helping to make this memorial possible," said Senator Dole.

NAFCU members will be able to participate in the campaign in two ways: either by making a personal donation, or by encouraging their credit union members to support the memorial through a NAFCU/World War II Memorial pledge card that can be obtained from the NAFCU website (or by diskette) and distributed as a statement stuffer.

The NAFCU/WWII Memorial pledge card also will allow credit union members to submit names for the World War II Registry of Remembrances, which will include the names of veterans and individuals on the home front who contributed to the war effort. The registry will be kept on permanent display at the National World War II Memorial.

"The memorial and its registry will be a fitting tribute to those who served," said NAFCU Chair Ron Keeler. "I know that many NAFCU credit union leaders and their members either supported or served in World War II. This is a unique opportunity to create a lasting legacy commemorating their efforts." Keeler said that America is losing its WWII veterans at the rate of 1,000 a day, adding a sense of urgency to the campaign. "Of the 16 million Americans who served, fewer than six million are alive today," he said.

The artwork for the NAFCU/World War II Memorial pledge card will be available on

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NAFCU's website at www.nafcunet.org. Copies of the artwork can also be obtained by calling Joelle Hahn in NAFCU's Marketing Division at 1-800-336-4644, ext. 227.

NAFCU is the only national organization of credit unions that focuses exclusively on federal issues affecting credit unions, representing its members before the federal government and the public.

HARRIET TUBMAN DAVIS VETERAN STATUS PROPOSAL TO THE HOUSE FLOOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to grant Harriet Tubman veteran status for her service in the Union Army from 1863 to 1865.

With a letter from governor John Andrews of Massachusetts Harriet Tubman reported to General David Hunter at Hilton Head, South Carolina in 1863 where she worked as a nurse, scout, spy and cook for the Union Army.

In the spring of 1865 she worked briefly at a freedman's hospital in Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

Harriet Tubman recruited Union Army soldiers in the South. On March 6, 1863 the Secretary of War was informed that seven hundred and fifty blacks who were waiting for an opportunity to join the Union Army had been rescued from slavery under the leadership of Harriet Tubman.

After the Civil War Mrs. Tubman married Nelson Davis, a private in the US Colored Infantry Volunteers. He died in 1888 and Mrs. Tubman received a pension as his widow. Mrs. Tubman applied for an increase in her pension. H.R. 4982, of the 55th Congress, was never enacted but it proposed that Mrs. Tubman be given a pension as a veteran of the Civil War at her request. Senator William H. Seward of New York, the Secretary of the State under Lincoln during the time of the Civil War and knew Mrs. Tubman personally. Mr. Seward advocated Mrs. Tubman's placement on the pension roll, for her service in the war as a nurse in the United States Army.

Mrs. Tubman lived the remainder of her life after the Civil War in Auburn, New York. She is buried in Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn with military honors.

Prior to 1863, Harriet Tubman was a conductor on "The Underground Railroad." After escaping from slavery in 1849, she returned to the South repeatedly freeing other slaves before joining the war effort in 1863. She is reported to have personally brought over 300 slaves to freedom including her brothers, sisters, and elderly parents.

In 1913 Harriet Tubman died of pneumonia without being formally recognized as a veteran of the Civil War. I propose that Harriet Tubman be awarded veteran status through this bill posthumously.

VANISHING WILDLIFE STAMP ACT OF 2000—H.R. 4872

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 4872, the Vanishing Wildlife Stamp Act of 2000. This important legislation calls upon the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative wildlife semi-postal stamp.

Such a stamp would have broad appeal to the public, would supplement the modest appropriations for U.S. Government recovery programs, and would assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in filing the gap between congressional authorization and appropriations.

By providing this convenient vehicle for members of the public to "vote with their pocketbooks" for a federal program that they support, the vanishing wildlife stamp will help relieve pressure and complete reliance on federal appropriations and shift wildlife conservation away from big government solutions and toward a first-hand example of public-private cooperation to achieve a common goal.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 21

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement implementing the October 1999 announcement by the President to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest for increased protection.

SD-366